



MONTHLY JUNE/JULY 2006 UPDATE

◆ MDOD Secretary plans outreach in Frederick County

The Maryland Department of Disabilities,
Maryland Higher Education Commission
and
Frederick Community College
invite you to attend the official kick-off of the
**Governor's Community College Initiative for
Students with Learning Disabilities**
followed by a
Disabilities Public Listening Post
on July 10, 2006
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
at the JBK Theatre in the Arts & Student Center
at
Frederick Community College
7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, 21702

Dr. Carol Eaton, President of Frederick Community College,
MDOD Secretary Kristen Cox and MHEC Secretary Dr. Calvin Burnett
will present **an overview of the Community College Initiative**,
followed by **a public forum** open to students, educators, service
providers, advocates, caregivers, family members and other interested
parties. Participants are encouraged to bring questions and comments
to ask the panel. The briefing is expected to last 30 minutes to be
followed immediately by the Public Listening Post.

For more information about this event, contact:
Deidre McCabe at the Maryland Department of Disabilities at 410-767-3654;
Helen Szablya at the Maryland Higher Education Commission at 410-260-4511;
Michael Pritchard at Frederick Community College at 301-846-2417.

For directions or a campus map, visit www.frederick.edu.



◆ Empowering People ◆

Putting people to work drives employment project

Putting people to work is a top
priority for the Maryland Department
of Disabilities. And getting
information to job seekers and
potential employers is an essential
step in this process.

To this end, the Department
embarked on an ambitious
information gathering exercise to
help people with disabilities navigate
the often complicated process of
landing a job, as well as educating
potential employers about the value
of hiring people with disabilities. The
result is a comprehensive series of
fact sheets created as part of the
“**Work Matters**” project. Information
in the series was developed by the
National Education Center at Way
Station, Inc. in Frederick through
funding from the Medicaid
Infrastructure Grant awarded
by the Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services.

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◆ Governor Ehrlich joins celebration unveiling renovated League headquarters

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. and **Donn Weinberg** of The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation presided over a re-dedication ceremony May 26 at The League for People with Disabilities in Baltimore celebrating the completion of a \$5.8 million renovation project.

The state contributed \$1.7 million to the project and the Weinberg Foundation also was a major contributor to the first major renovation of the facility in more than four decades. Without increasing square footage, the League now will serve 30 percent more clients annually – nearly 400 more people – due to a more efficient layout and significantly improved programs and services throughout the building.

Addressing an audience of nearly 200 guests, Governor Ehrlich applauded the League's 79-year history of assisting citizens in need, helping them improve physically and mentally and get on with their lives. **"What this renovation will do is empower people,"** said Governor Ehrlich.

The League's Chief Executive Officer **Janice Frey-Angel** said the newly renovated building reflects the organization's core values and **"symbolizes putting ability first."**

Each year, the League serves more than 1,000 individuals with multiple physical, cognitive and neurological disabilities, giving them the opportunity to gain independence through a comprehensive continuum of vocational, rehabilitative, educational, medical, wellness and recreational services. Without The League, many clients would be receiving non-personalized rehabilitative care, living with little or no medical supervision and social interaction, or forced to live in institutional settings.

As part of the master renovation, The League created a therapeutic, sensory garden for clients and the community. The project also included a new occupational therapy kitchen and new multi-purpose room that will host an after-school program for children with autism, in addition to the redesign of interior space throughout the facility.

◆ Putting people to work

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Some of the fact sheets aimed at job seekers include: *Assistive Technology; Career Options; Getting the Job You Want; School to Work; Supports and Services; Think You Can't Work? Think Again; Where the Jobs Are; and Your Rights and Responsibilities.*

Some of the fact sheets geared at employers include: *Resources for Reasonable Accommodation Requests; Disability Employment Law; Tax Incentives/Credits; and Workforce Solutions: Finding Job Seekers with Disabilities.*

You can find the complete series of fact sheets for job seekers and businesses at www.mdod.maryland.gov and www.mdworkforcepromise.org. For more information about this initiative, contact the Maryland Department of Disabilities at (800) 637-4113 voice/tty or mdod@mdod.state.md.us.

◆ MDOD's Director of Long Term Care Services

Rhonda Workman, Director of Long Term Care Services at the Maryland Department of Disabilities, has taken on an ambitious project. As Director of Long Term Care, she is tasked with developing and influencing long-term care policies, programs and service delivery systems with the goal of increasing community integration and decreasing institutionalization for people with disabilities.

The U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead decision of 1999 requires states to provide the least restrictive options possible for long-term care service needs. Based on the Olmstead decision, MDOD's State Disabilities Plan includes a Community Integration component that strives to allow people with disabilities "to have access to a wide range of options in choosing their own community support as alternatives to institutional care settings."

Ms. Workman will focus on the coordination and collaboration of State agencies with regard to community options for individuals with disabilities based on consumer input and satisfaction.

Formerly with the Office of Personal Assistance Services with Maryland's Department of Human Resources, Ms. Workman joined MDOD in July 2005. At DHR, she served as the first director of the office, where she was charged with the development and implementation of the Living at Home Waiver program (Maryland's Medicaid home and community-based service waiver for adults with physical disabilities). She also directed the Attendant Care Program and the Nursing Facility Transition Grant.

Previously, Ms. Workman worked as program manager for 10 years at a vocational program serving people with developmental disabilities where she developed the agency's supported employment program. She has a degree in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento. She currently lives in Howard County with her husband and two sons.

For more information about Long Term Care Services, contact Ms. Workman at rworkman@mdod.state.md.us or 410-767-7901.

